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Column One
David Courtney

M.A.C. on Huleh 'Inconclusive'

TEL AVIV, Tuesday. — Today's seven and a half hour meeting of the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission at Rosh Pina was "inconclusive," a military spokesman said here tonight. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 this evening to enable both delegations to submit proposals to their respective governments with a view to lessening the tension in the area. The meeting will be resumed at Rosh Pina at 2:30 tomorrow afternoon.

Tractors continued work in the Huleh area today with no interference.

It was reported from Tiberias that the Syrian delegation's proposal to discuss the transfer of Arab villagers from Beqaa village, just south of the Huleh, to the interior was turned down by the Israeli members who refused to discuss it on the ground that the M.A.C. was only competent to discuss military matters.

A deadlock developed following this, but on the insistence of the U.N. chairman the Syrians agreed to discuss Israeli complaints, taking the first six items of the agenda. One of the complaints dealt with the opening of fire by the Syrians on Israeli workers in the Huleh area, which Israel regarded as a breach of the armistice.

The question of the villagers of Samra, who crossed into Syria yesterday, was also brought up by the Syrian members, but the discussion was postponed as a separate item on the agenda later on.

WHAT is interesting is the assumption that Israel is no longer solely concerned to defend its own frontiers or even to regard an attack upon its immediate neighbours as a threat to its own security. The plain implication of the "New York Times" despatch is that Israel would like to base its policy on a wide regionalism and to respond as a belligerent the moment any part of the Middle or Near East, from the Bosphorus on the one hand and the Caspian on the other, to the Mediterranean, becomes the object of aggression.

THIS would give Israel, in the Middle East, a commitment and purpose hardly less decisive than the commitment and purpose which the Prime Minister of Greece is eager, under very similar conditions, to take upon the skin and bone of the shoulders of Greece. He, too, believes that the aggressor should be met close to the start of his villainy; and would send a Greek army well out along the banks of the Danube. British and American strategists and politicians will presumably be aware of the practical difficulties in the way of these ambitions. Global security to the point where the aggressor is to be met effectively against everyone of his frontiers would demand a rearmament and mobilization effort even greater than the one now upsetting economic and social apple-carts over the whole area of the Atlantic Pact.

THE desire to stop the enemy in his tracks before he gets properly started is not peculiar to little nations like Israel and Greece. M. Aurio, President of France, has just told the American Congress that its goal should be to save peace by shielding Europe against aggression. France wants no more of "occupation" and "liberation." If aggression is on the way it should be stopped before it touches the boundaries of Western Europe. General Eisenhower's idea of a British redoubt is not to the Frenchman's liking; or the Belgian's, or the Dutchman's, or the Dane's or the German's or the Italian's. The fact of the matter would seem to be that those who started the idea of preparing against possible European aggression must now take into account the fact that whilst many nations are ready enough to contribute to the anti-aggression forces, none is willing to contemplate long years of enemy occupation. That is to say, if America wants to fight the Russians she will get allies enough, but will be expected to keep the war up against the Russian frontiers. One cannot help thinking it is asking too much of the Americans; who, one day, may grow a little tired of the whole business.

Tel Aviv, April 4.

AFTER MIDNIGHT
Mr. Morrison and Mr. George Martin, U.S. Ambassador, have announced that the other members of the Foreign Policy Council's decision to nationalize the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in Iran has been reached. Mr. Martin concluded this week on this basis, the report concluded.

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Morrison Seen Trying to Bridge Gap to Russia

ROME, Tuesday. — Signor Nenni May MacA. Numbers

Bargain On Massing Chinese

West Pact At Half Million

Signor Nenni was speaking

to a press conference in Milan

on the eve of the Italian Communist Party's Congress.

Observers thought Signor Nenni's statement might be timed to prepare for a new surprise offer of collaboration with the predominantly Christian Democrat government. Closely allied with the Communists, Signor Nenni told reporters his party could accept the Atlantic Pact as an accomplished fact if the parties in the coalition government would:

make Italian participation a cautious one, seeking to limit the country's commitments under the Pact;

carry through effective social reforms, including land reform.

The qualifications in Mr. Morrison's speech, on the other hand, were the obvious ones which observers would expect to be made by any British Foreign Secretary. But the emphasis was on his will to reach a settlement, diplomatic observers thought. This was backed up by the reaffirmation that in the face of large-scale Chinese intervention in Korea, Britain still wanted to resume normal relations with China, and by an expression of British sympathy with the social aims of the Chinese People's Government.

Signor Nenni gave serious consideration to a memorandum prepared by the Chiefs of Staff which envisages the transfer of British Forces from the Suez Canal to Cyprus. This scheme has been mooted for a long time, but it is now suggested that definite hopes in this direction may be held out to the Egyptians provided they consent to the principle of joint defence of the Canal Zone. Presumably some British troops would still be left in the Zone, but the mobile forces would be withdrawn to areas farther away from Egypt.

It seems almost inconceivable that this proposal will satisfy the Egyptians after the violent propaganda of recent months, to which Nasser Pasha last week gave further impetus in a public statement, but the attempt is to be made. If it fails it is difficult to see how there can be further talks.

The Communists therefore were willing to cease resistance to the Italian government if it would "act in such a way as to avoid the country being dragged into war."

"We demand that the government abandon the present preparation for war on American orders and that it follow a policy of peace." He said the Communist offer was not a new form of agitation but an effort to confront positively the alternative of peace or war.

In reply to a question from the British Deputy, Mr. Ernest Davies, he said he had nothing to add to the comments and objections he made yesterday, but asked the West to define their attitude on the Soviet proposal that the North Atlantic Treaty and the setting up of U.S. bases abroad, as well as the Italian Peace Treaty with the provisions for Trieste be noted as separate items on the agenda. At several points during the meeting Mr. Gromyko seemed to take the stand that these two points, in addition to German reparation and the reduction of armaments were the main Soviet demands.

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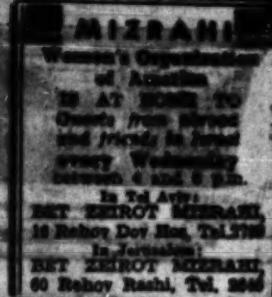
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**Social & Personal**

Mrs. N. Levinson, who is leaving on an educational mission, was yesterday received by the Prime Minister, Mr. David Ben Gurion, at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

Mr. and Mrs. Horwitz-Barlach yesterday flew to Elath for a tour of the area.

Dr. J. Penn, noted South African plastic surgeon, arrived here yesterday, accompanied by six other doctors, to perform a series of operations on war invalids.

Mr. R. Roseman, Legal Adviser to the Foreign Ministry, is to leave today for the U.S.A., where he will present certain evidence on behalf of the Government before the International Court on the U.N. Genocide Convention.

Mr. Kedem Frankin, Chief Supply Officer of the Police, has left for England on a purchasing mission.

Mr. Yitzhak Shabtai, the writer, has returned from Central America on a mission on behalf of the Central Committee of the United Israel Campaign in Jerusalem.

Mrs. Harris Cohen, President of the Australian Wizo Federation, has arrived in Israel accompanied by Mrs. Ethel London, Mrs. Tristam of the Federation, Mrs. Miriam Goldstein, President of the Adelante Group and Mrs. Goldstein.

Mrs. Irena Landau has returned to Mishmar HaSharon from a mission to the United States on behalf of Progressive Palestine Projects and Kibbutz Artzi, Hashomer Hatzair.

The last group of 10 musicians of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra returned by El Al yesterday following their North American tour.

The Polish Consul General in Jerusalem and Madame Gorka were at home on Monday to meet the members of the Polish trade delegation.

A reception for Mr. Maurice Schwartz, the Yiddish actor, will be held at the Jerusalem Municipal at 6 p.m. tomorrow evening. The Mayor, Mr. S. Sharot, and the members of the Municipal Council.

Dr. Susan Munner, secretary of the Israel Society of Medical History, has been elected Corresponding Member of the Academie Internationale d'Historie des Sciences in Paris.

Mr. A.S. Hodson, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Anglo-Palestine Bank Ltd., will speak on "The Industrial Needs" at tomorrow's luncheon meeting of the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Rotary Club.

Dr. J.V. Mahanay, director of UNICEF, Mr. Jean Lebel, UNICEF Inspector of the UNRWA, and Mr. Frank Hunt, Chief of the Mission of the American Friends Service Committee, received guests at a symposium at the Tel Aviv-Haifa Rotary Club for the international relief bodies working in the northern areas of Israel.

Miss Bella Konon, of the Fellow Industrial Designers' Institute, New York, will deliver an illustrated lecture on "Industrial Design in America" at 8.30 p.m. tomorrow at the Technion School of Arts and Crafts, Jerusalem.

The guest singer, S. Jaslovsky, of the Metropole Opera, will appear for the third time in the role of Rigoletto in Verdi's "Rigoletto," which will be presented by the Hebrew National Opera at the Armon Theatre in Haifa, tonight. M. Golinkin will conduct.

OBITUARY
Dr. Paul Engel-Schuster, Dr. Gustav Engel-Schuster, of Ramat Gan, passed away on April 1, 1951 after suffering from a heart ailment. She is survived by her husband, Mordechai Max Schuster, and her father, Nachshon Ben Engel.

MEMORIAL MEETING
A memorial meeting for Mr. Gedaliah Alon, Lecturer in History at the Hebrew University, will be held at 8 o'clock this evening at Terra Sancta College in Jerusalem on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death. Dr. Avraham Shalem, in Jewish History at the University, Dr. Yehuda Phryng and Lydia during the Period of Antiochus III. Professor Shalem and Dr. E.L. Shalem will be among the speakers.

Swedish Envoy At HAKIRYA Today
HAKIRYA Tuesday — The Swedish Charge d'Affaires in Israel, Mr. Gösta Bodengren, who arrived yesterday, will present his Letter of Appointment tomorrow to Mr. Walter Eytan, Director-General of the Foreign Ministry, who will receive it in place of the Foreign Minister.

Mr. Sharet, who was admitted to the Hadassah Hospital in Petah Tikva for examination following an attack of influenza last week, was "feeling well," the hospital said today. It was announced that Mr. Sharet was admitted for a general check-up.

The Hebrew National OPERA
HAIFA: Atmos
Tonight at 8 p.m.
Rigoletto
Last performance of M. JANOVIC'S of the Belgrade Opera in the role of "Rigoletto".
Conductor: M. GOLINKIN

PETAH TIKVA: Musical Thursday, 8.30 p.m.
Market of Samaria
Soprano: S. JANOVIC
Conductor: O. SINGER

National Economy Enriched By Rise in Imports

By M. Ben-Gurion

Israel's adverse trade balance may, at first sight, lead one to think that the country is using up its resources faster than is reasonable. The important question is, however, whether these imports, or at least the major part of them, are contributing towards the accumulation of new means of production. If the answer is "yes," then the effect of imports on the national economy will, in the long run, be positive, and will outweigh the disadvantages of even a large deficit in the balance of payments.

The latest figures made available by the Treasury and the Central Bureau of Statistics show an aggregate putty for imports in 1950 of IL 102,602,000, compared with IL 87,982,000 in 1949, or an increase of 16 per cent. At the same time, the value of imports per head of the population remained stationary at IL 81.4, a clear indication that the regulating efforts of Government were successfully coping with the requirements of a rapidly increasing population. It is instructive, in this respect, to compare the 16 per cent increase in the value of imports with the 24.7 per cent increase in population (from 1,016,000 in 1949 to 1,267,000 in 1950).

Productivity of Imports

Food, drink, and tobacco account for IL 23.5m. (in 1950) against IL 22.0m. in 1949. This increase of only 2.2 per cent, accompanied by a much higher increase in population, shows that local production of essential foodstuffs covered the requirements of the population, almost as adequately as in the preceding year when the population was 250,000 less.

A comparison of figures for the first half of the two years reveals, however, one or two negative factors. In 1950, for example, we bought more beans, haricots, maize, and barley than in the same period of 1949. All these products used to be produced locally in sufficient quantities, and barley was even an important export item. This shows that in the period under review agricultural production was not yet fully gauged to the level of consumption. On the other hand, we bought more wheat (IL 222,000) and less flour (IL 314,000) which indicates that the local milling industry was given more work, and incidentally provided more feed for animals.

Similar savings were obtained in the cost of imported meat and cattle which was reduced from IL 3.5m. to IL 2.7m. This, of course, entailed hardships which could only partly be compensated for by increased purchases of dairy products and fish, obtained mostly by barter transactions without payment in hard currency.

Raw Materials
The increase in the cost of imports is much more pronounced in two other fields: raw materials and manufactured goods. In 1950, the outlay for raw materials and articles mostly unmanufactured was IL 17.1m., against IL 12.8m. in 1949. While it is obvious that industrial development is responsible for increased consumption of raw materials, it must be borne in mind that this development influences the national economy favourably in several directions. It creates employment, reduces the volume of goods which would otherwise have to be imported, and increases the export potential. This influence is reflected in such branches as the diamond trade where exports increased from IL 1.4m. in 1949 to IL 3.1m. in 1950, or in the textile industry, with IL 356,000 worth of woolen issues exported in 1950 against only 110,000 in 1949.

Equally, the expansion of road construction and building programmes is reflected in higher import figures for asphalt and timber. In all these cases, the bulk of the imports is closely related either to investment or to export, or to a combination of both.

Manufactured Goods
In the period before the second world war, the term "articles wholly or mainly manufactured" already figured

prominently in the list of imports. It is the same today, and the goods in question represent no less than 60 per cent of all imports (IL 60m. in 1950, and IL 51.3m. in 1949). But the word "manufactured" is misleading as it may lead one to think that these imports consist mainly of consumption goods. As a matter of fact, the contrary is the case, and in an analysis of the various components of this group we do not find a single instance of an increase which could be attributed to consumption goods. A striking example is from pipes for irrigation, which in the first half of 1950, accounted for IL 3,272,000 in the same period of 1949.

The conclusion is therefore justified that the increase of about IL 16m. in the 1950 imports over 1949 indicates a shift in constructive investment rather than in consumption. True, controls are severe, and the deficit in the balance of payments can by no means be dismissed as negligible. But in the over-all picture, the fact remains that the national economy has been enriched, and that the shift in the financial balance is largely set off by an improvement of the economic balance. Seen from this angle, a certain optimism with regard to the economic situation seems justified.

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prominently in the list of imports. It is the same today, and the goods in question represent no less than 60 per cent of all imports (IL 60m. in 1950, and IL 51.3m. in 1949). But the word "manufactured" is misleading as it may lead one to think that these imports consist mainly of consumption goods. As a matter of fact, the contrary is the case, and in an analysis of the various components of this group we do not find a single instance of an increase which could be attributed to consumption goods. A striking example is from pipes for irrigation, which in the first half of 1950, accounted for IL 3,272,000 in the same period of 1949.

The conclusion is therefore justified that the increase of about IL 16m. in the 1950 imports over 1949 indicates a shift in constructive investment rather than in consumption. True, controls are severe, and the deficit in the balance of payments can by no means be dismissed as negligible. But in the over-all picture, the fact remains that the national economy has been enriched, and that the shift in the financial balance is largely set off by an improvement of the economic balance. Seen from this angle, a certain optimism with regard to the economic situation seems justified.

Productivity of Imports
Food, drink, and tobacco account for IL 23.5m. (in 1950) against IL 22.0m. in 1949. This increase of only 2.2 per cent, accompanied by a much higher increase in population, shows that local production of essential foodstuffs covered the requirements of the population, almost as adequately as in the preceding year when the population was 250,000 less.

A comparison of figures for the first half of the two years reveals, however, one or two negative factors. In 1950, for example, we bought more beans, haricots, maize, and barley than in the same period of 1949. All these products used to be produced locally in sufficient quantities, and barley was even an important export item. This shows that in the period under review agricultural production was not yet fully gauged to the level of consumption. On the other hand, we bought more wheat (IL 222,000) and less flour (IL 314,000) which indicates that the local milling industry was given more work, and incidentally provided more feed for animals.

Similar savings were obtained in the cost of imported meat and cattle which was reduced from IL 3.5m. to IL 2.7m. This, of course, entailed hardships which could only partly be compensated for by increased purchases of dairy products and fish, obtained mostly by barter transactions without payment in hard currency.

Raw Materials
The increase in the cost of imports is much more pronounced in two other fields: raw materials and manufactured goods. In 1950, the outlay for raw materials and articles mostly unmanufactured was IL 17.1m., against IL 12.8m. in 1949. While it is obvious that industrial development is responsible for increased consumption of raw materials, it must be borne in mind that this development influences the national economy favourably in several directions. It creates employment, reduces the volume of goods which would otherwise have to be imported, and increases the export potential. This influence is reflected in such branches as the diamond trade where exports increased from IL 1.4m. in 1949 to IL 3.1m. in 1950, or in the textile industry, with IL 356,000 worth of woolen issues exported in 1950 against only 110,000 in 1949.

Equally, the expansion of road construction and building programmes is reflected in higher import figures for asphalt and timber. In all these cases, the bulk of the imports is closely related either to investment or to export, or to a combination of both.

Manufactured Goods
In the period before the second world war, the term "articles wholly or mainly manufactured" already figured

At the Cinema

BOTH "Road House" (Mozabi, Tel Aviv) and "Young Man with a Horn" (Orion, Tel Aviv) deal with the age-old domestic triangle. Furthermore, both films' weak plots are made palatable by excellent direction, fine acting and imaginative photography.

"Road House," despite its improbable ending, is probably the better piece. With Jan Negulesco setting the scene for a film on the strange life of a tavern at the outskirts of a small town, Ida Lupino gives an excellent performance. Her lovers are Cornell Wilde and Richard Widmark.

"Young Man with a Horn" is directed by Michael Curtis, who creates an intense milieu of music halls and bars. Kirk Douglas, jazz trombonist, is the fellow who has trouble with two girls. I much preferred Dorris Day, a new actress, to Lauren Bacall. Mo-

REVIEW BY M. BEN-GURION

THE JERUSALEM POST

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IT has at last been announced that the date for the elections to the World Zionist Congress due to be held in Jerusalem in July is to be decided at a meeting of the election committee scheduled for tomorrow. The date is to be set in such a way that it is possible to hold the Congress at the end of July, which means that rather less than two months remain before the latest possible date for elections, which regulations require to be completed not less than two months before the Congress itself.

Mapai and the Progressives, who have obtained a majority in Congress elections throughout the world, are opposed by a coalition of Mapam, Herut, General Zionists, and Mizrachi. Each of these parties had its own reasons for wishing to postpone the elections, or to see the Israel seats allocated in the Israel seats allocated according to an agreed "key." The financial position of Herut, which is in a state of disorganization, does not permit two-election campaigns, one after the other, and in addition, Betar may appear with its own list. The Mizrahi have not yet completed their negotiations for a united religious front for the Knesset elections, and the group which is headed by Mr. D. Z. Pinkas and advocates close cooperation with the General Zionists is gaining in numbers. Within Mapam, a serious conflict is developing in connection with its party convention which is to be held at the end of April. As it is not yet certain that this conference will not end in a split, the party is hampered in its preparations for immediate elections.

The General Zionists have put their cards on the table in a leading article in "Ha-Boker." Since Mapai — the article argues — is certain of its victory in the Congress elections, they are interested in a "dress-rehearsal" before the Knesset elections, and the General Zionists were not in favour of holding Congress elections at all. Both Mapai and Herut supported this scheme, although it is permissible only where all parties agree, and in this case Mapai was not at all likely to do so.

In the majority of countries where Congress elections have taken place, Mapai and the Progressives have both registered substantial gains. This again threatens a split within the World Federation of General Zionists where the Progressives are in the majority. It is, of course, not in the interest of the Israeli General Zionists that this preponderance of the Progressives should be confirmed by Congress elections in Israel and, at the same time, reveal their own weakness on the eve of their Knesset elections. The attitude of Mapai is similarly influenced by the fear that the Cominformist ideology of its majority might suffer a serious setback at Congress elections. It is not impossible that both or one of these parties may even decline to take part in the elections for the coming Congress, the first to be held since the establishment of the state, and the first to be held in this country.

Pakistan Accepts Kashmir Plan

LAKE SUCCESS, Tuesday (UPI). — Pakistan yesterday formally accepted the Security Council's resolution on Kashmir, providing for the appointment of a new U.N. mediator to effect demilitarization of the area, which has been contested by India and Pakistan for three years.

From Pakistan it was reported that the Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had telephoned in a closed meeting yesterday that India was prepared for all uncompromising solutions, but remained silent on the question of the resolution. The Security Council's resolution would not affect the holding of elections to the proposed constituent assembly for Kashmir and Jammu, he added.

Indo-China Drains French Forces

By Robert P. Martin

TOKYO (ONA) —

WITH the war in Indo-China a stalemate, the French—and the American—dilemma becomes clearly evident. The French cannot defeat the Communist-dominated Viet Minh unless the majority of Vietnamese support the non-Communist Bao Dai Government. As long as a French army remains in Indo-China, the Bao Dai Government is considered a French puppet and cannot attract popular support. But if the French withdraw their army, the Viet Minh would conquer the country within weeks.

As one American who recently returned to Tokyo from Saigon summed up that dilemma: the Communists can't be defeated if the French army stays, but the Communists certainly will win if the French army leaves.

Communist Government

Two years ago French concessions might have brought into being a truly nationalistic government, including Communists such as Moscow-trained Ho Chi Minh. His Viet Minh movement was 90 per cent non-Communist at that time and non-Communist Nationalists exercised considerable power.

Now, however, the Communists hold all the key posts in the Viet Minh Government. The Communists include President Ho Chi Minh, Vice-President Phan Van-dong, Army Commander Vo Nguyen Giap, Minister of Information Tran Van Hui, Finance Minister Le Van Hien, Education Minister Nguyen Khos Toan, and Labour Minister Nguyen Van Tao. Non-Communists hold the portfolios for economic affairs, public works, communications, foreign affairs, internal affairs, public health, agriculture and social welfare. But their power is severely limited. Real power is exercised by a super-government, the High Council for National Defence, which has only one non-Communist member.

Anti-French sentiment is the dominant note in Indo-China politics. There is little confidence in French promises or political concessions, although early this year the French signed an agreement which theoretically transfers independence to the Bao Dai Government "within the French Union." The theory was that an anti-Communist national government would attract support of the non-Communist masses once independence was no longer an issue.

The French, however, retained effective control over military affairs, foreign affairs, security and foreign trade. The French, use very telling arguments to support their need for control. They are doing most of the fighting, and the Bao Dai Government does not have a national army capable of defeating the Viet Minh. So the French must have control of military affairs. They are backing the Vietnamese plasters and therefore must retain control over foreign exchange and trade—at least until trade is balanced. This will take some time. During the first half of 1950, Indo-China had an ad-

vise trade balance of \$25m. and invisible imports—insurance and remittance of \$25m. This deficit was covered by the French.

Anti-French Economics

The main reason for the deficit is the French embargo on delivery of rice from the Viet Minh-controlled areas to the port. The Viet Minh collect duty on all shipments and, in order to cut off this source of revenue, the French prohibited rice deliveries. As a result, Indo-China's rice exports last year were only 110,000 tons compared to the pre-World War II average of 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 tons a year. Viet Minh lost considerable revenue, but the French action has backfired politically.

There is great distress among the rice farmers who are unable to sell their crops, and they are increasingly anti-French.

Despite their losses—more than 25,000 Frenchmen killed in four years of war—the French have been reluctant to organize a Vietnamese national army to relieve the drain on their manpower. They theorize, rightly, that a powerful Vietnamese army would force the French to leave Indo-China with the same enthusiasm shown by the Communists.

New Bao Dai Army

An agreement has been negotiated with the Bao Dai Government on organizing a new national army of 50,000 men. The Vietnam Government will allocate 40 per cent of its national revenue to finance the army, and the United States has promised equipment for 18 battalions. Little has been done, however, toward modernizing the army. The Bao Dai Government is reluctant to impose the necessary taxes. The initial cost will be at least 3,000,000 piastres (\$150,000) or one-third more than the Government's total income. There is also a decided shortage of officers. The Vietnamese do not want French officers, but only 200 Vietnamese officers are being trained each year.

It will be at least a year, and probably much longer, before an army of 50,000 men can be raised to carry on the war against the Viet Minh.

Bao Dai's political weakness is also a drawback to getting popular support. Shortly after signing the agreement with the French, Bao Dai dismissed his cabinet. For a month, at a time when a strong government was essential to make the most of the French concessions, there was no government whatsoever. Bao Dai has been reluctant to draw up a constitution and establish a legislative body because his autocratic powers would be curtailed. As a result, many capable anti-Communist nationalists have refused to join a cabinet which has no real power and which can be dismissed at will.

Since the Vietnamese distrust the French and have no love for the Bao Dai Government, it is difficult to see any solution in Indo-China beyond a continued stalemate with its endless drain on French manpower and American resources.

MUSICAL DIARY

THE first joint concert by Hugo Wolf and Erich-Walter Rostal (violin) and Leo Sternberg (harpischord), exclusively dedicated to the work of Bach, took place at the Tel Aviv Museum on Saturday. They played the sonatas for violin and harpsichord in B minor; G minor; and E major, and the G minor sonata for violin alone.

Mr. Rostal, who will stay in Israel for a month, gave a lecture at the "Keren Yisrael" Hall the following day. In an interview, he said that he is anxious to meet the young violinists of this country. It is his opinion that as many of the world's great violinists are Jews, and therefore talent should be abundant in Israel. He stated that he had participated in a competition of violinists in Prague two years ago, and of the highly gifted musicians competing, nine out of ten were Jews.

EDITH GOLDSTEIN

Edith Goldstein gave an impressive solo recital at the Tel Aviv Museum last Thursday. In an intelligently chosen programme, the artist sang the seldom-heard "Liebestraum" of Brahms, while containing the highest expression of the composer's faith. Miss Goldstein then sang three songs by Mahler, choruses by Honegger, and songs by Mr. A. Nikolaisky (cello).

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF NEW BEERSHEBA



Immigrants in Beersheba are moving into newly completed housing units after waiting only three months for Solot Boneit to complete its housing scheme under which 20 houses a day are being erected. In the foreground and at left are remains of the old town. Aerial photo by Rubinger

THE AMERICAN SCENE: TRIALS, TRIGGERS AND TAXI DRIVERS U.S. 'Cools Off' on Defence Issues

By Kenneth Harris

NEW YORK —

GENERAL Marshall, the U.S. Secretary of Defense, has told the American people that at a time when international tension is more serious than it was last November, he is astonished by the relaxing of public support for the American long-term defence effort.

General Marshall was speaking mainly for the benefit of those Congressmen who are resisting his measures for increasing the numbers of men to be called up for military service. He was particularly anxious to speak out when Congressmen were home in the bosom of their constituencies on ten days' recess. He probably "laid it on" a bit.

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JERUSALEM ART NOTES

Colour and Calm Seas

THE "Retrospective Exhibition" of Albert Marquet's work, which opened last Saturday at the Bezalel Museum, presents the rich achievement of a painter, in whose work we find all the significant characteristics of the French tradition: The precision of plastic values, the beauty and the harmony of colours, the clarity of composition and the perfect equilibrium which comes from a deep love of life. Albert Marquet represents the trend in French painting which is known as "Post-Cezanneism." Albert Marquet's constant theme is the sea—it is a calm

sea, never lashed by a gale, never reflecting the glare of a southern sun, a calm sea which merges into the horizon under a veil of mist. The student of Marquet's work is assisted by a good catalogue, which helps him to date the pictures. There are many works of the first decade of the century which, to the superficial observer, in their impressionist simplification of form, look far more "modern" than the later works of Marquet, who found his final style in developing the tradition of the "Fauves."

Marquet's painting has never been influenced by any of the intellectual "isms" so prevalent in the half century of his artistic activity. Still, the visitor of this exhibition is invited to analyse some of the pictures which are simplified to the essentials of colour and composition. He will discover that, brought down to the "skeleton" of an abstract painting every single one of Marquet's pictures retains its basic beauty, which is the criterion of true timeless painting.

Marquet and Henri Matisse were companions in their Mediterranean travels. But there is not the slightest trace of the greater friend's influence in Marquet's work. Yet, was Matisse really the greater one? Studying pictures, such as Marquet's "Venice" No. 30, the early "Naples Port" No. 7, or the "Mist over Font-Neuf" No. 36, one feels doubtful.

FRANCO

Sergei Rachmaninoff

AN enjoyable concert of chamber music was offered by the Haifa String Quartet at Bet Hatofot on Saturday. They played the last four counterpoints from Bach's last work, "The Art of the Fugue," and the Debussy Quartet No. 1, op. 10. The playing was carefully balanced, and showed brilliance of taste and feeling. Rafael Marcus (violin) also gave Rachmaninoff the idea for a charming little melody—Cherubino's romance. There was a fascinating little introduction to the third act.

Mo.

IN HAIFA

Arnold Zweig's "Young Woman of 1914" (the prelude to his well-known "Baal Shem" series) was dedicated by the author to Miriam Zwi, who was the prototype of one of the characters in the novel. Miss Zweig had a reputation as a pianist in pre-Hitler Berlin, and her recital at Mount Carmel's Moriah Hall on Thursday was well-attended. Coming with Bach's Cello Prelude and Fugue in B minor, Miss Zweig's performance sounded like a personal prayer. She gave a thoughtful and moving interpretation of Beethoven's "Pastoral" op. 28, No. 2. The second of Brahms' pieces, "Intermezzo" op. 11, No. 2, was played in B minor, showing a deep, feeling and flowing technique.

Mr. A. Nikolaisky (cello)

Readers' Letters

RETAILERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

To the Editor of The Post
Sir,— I sometimes wonder why we have any shops at all in Israel, where the customer is always wrong. When they sell you something that subsequently proves to be faulty—as in the case of a rubber raincoat I bought recently—they refuse to be responsible. They blame the factories. Why, then, should the law continue to protect the retailers by preventing the public from buying directly from the factories?

My raincoat story, a typical case, will illustrate my point. It was a "Utility" raincoat. I bought it a few weeks ago at a well-known shop in Haifa for IL 5.450. It was red, and so, after the first rain, was everything I was wearing under it. In other words, the alleged raincoat was neither water-proof nor was the colour fast.

I complained to the shopkeeper, pointing out that what

they had sold me as a raincoat was obviously not fit to be worn in rain. They agreed, they said; however, they could not accept responsibility. They hadn't made the raincoat; they had merely sold it. I don't know a great deal about the law, but common sense tells me that I should have a good legal case against the shopkeeper. But they have me at a disadvantage, because, if you want justice at our law courts, you have got to have money, plenty of it, in order to prepare your suit. I just do not have the money to sue anyone in court.

The raincoat being entirely worthless, I am the loser by a week's wages plus 25 irreparable clothing coupons. And I keep asking myself what some political organisations mean by demanding more privileges for shopkeepers. My impression is that they are doing too badly for themselves at a time when the rest of the nation is tightening its belt.

Yours etc,

IRMA REDLICH

Haifa, March 30.

PHARMACY SCHOOL

To the Editor of The Post
Sir,— The establishment of a School of Pharmacy is fraught with many difficulties, particularly at the present time when the University is working under a very great strain. Nevertheless, a plan for such a school is at present before the University authorities, and negotiations are under way with the Government regarding its implementation.

Yours etc,

M. SPIEGEL

Associate Director

Department of Organization

The Hebrew University

Jerusalem, March 29.

AMERICAN'S THANKS

To the Editor of The Post

Sir,— I wish to thank you for publishing Nora Beloff's article on March 30. As an American myself, I am delightedly refreshed to learn that I am merely "an imaginary monster" and not the very corporeal, vampire-like rats in blood-thirsty head almost daily in "Column One."

Yours etc,

DAVID B. ROSENBLATT

Haifa, March 30.

POINTS FROM LETTERS

POOR OFFICE has been very kind to us, for the sake of convenience to correspondents, in having their names listed by the Post Office in a directory. Those who prefer to remain anonymous should be excluded from the list.

Yours etc,

M. B. AS